

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 130125

E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUNE 3 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUNE 3
PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Q: WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES REMAINING TO FULL RECOGNITION?
(OF CUBA)

A: WELL, I THINK WE'VE SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES, THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER PEOPLE, HAVE MENTIONED SUCH ISSUES AS AMERICAN PRISONERS IN CUBA, VISITATION RIGHTS FOR FAMILIES DIVIDED BETWEEN CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES, CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY SEIZED IN CUBA -- AND OTHER QUESTIONS, NOW, I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE THAT AN ALL-INCLUSIVE LIST. I SIMPLY LIST THOSE AS ISSUES OF CONCERN ON OUR SIDE, AND THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT OUR INTERESTS SECTIONS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS.

Q: DID YOU MEAN TO OMIT FROM THAT LIST CUBAN MILITARY
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PRESENCE IN AFRICA OR IS THAT AN OVERSIGHT?

A: I DID NOT MEAN TO OMIT THAT AND I WOULD INCLUDE THAT AS ONE OF THE ISSUES.

Q: THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION IN THE PAST EITHER EXPRESSED CONCERN, OR EXPRESSED CONCERN

ABOUT CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA, AND SAID THIS COULD BE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS, AND YET THE CUBANS KEEP OPERATING IN ANGOLA. THEY SENT PEOPLE TO ETHIOPIA, APPARENTLY PLAN TO SEND MORE TO ETHIOPIA, AND YET THE ADMINISTRATION GOES AHEAD IMPROVING RELATIONS, WHICH TENDS TO LEAVE THE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WITH A RATHER HOLLOW SOUND. HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY CONTINUALLY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER WHAT THE CUBANS ARE DOING IN AFRICA WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY IM-

PROVING RELATIONS?

A: I THINK I SAID EARLIER IN THE WEEK, DICK, THAT THIS IS PRECISELY ONE OF THE POINTS OF ESTABLISHING INTERESTS SECTIONS, TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF CONCERN, SUCH AS THE ONE YOU'VE RAISED.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE DELLUMS' REPORT THAT THE CUBANS ARE GOING TO SEND ABOUT 300 MORE MEDICAL PERSONNEL INTO ETHIOPIA. WOULD THAT BE THE TYPE OF INCREASED INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS WARNED AGAINST?

A: WE DON'T HAVE A CONFIRMATION THAT THAT REPORT IS TRUE. I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE FOR YOU ON THAT ONE.

Q: ARE YOU --?

A: I THINK THAT IS A SPECULATIVE QUESTION, OR A HYPOTHE-

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TICAL QUESTION, TO WHICH I CAN ONLY GIVE A NON-ANSWER.

Q: ON ETHIOPIA, IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING STILL THAT ALL THE CUBANS HAVE SENT INTO ETHIOPIA ARE 50 MILITARY TECHNICIANS?

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: JOHN, TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT DELLUMS QUESTION, YOU AND YOUR PREDECESSORS ON THAT PODIUM HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THAT THERE ARE BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CUBANS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. IS IT NOW THE CASE THAT THE CIVILIAN DOCTORS AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS' PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS OF CONCERN AND ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT IS STANDING IN THE WAY OF FULL

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OR NOT? DOES IT GO ON THAT LIST THAT YOU GAVE US?

A: THE QUESTION OF --?

Q: OF CIVILIAN CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. IS THAT ONE
OF THE THINGS BLOCKING FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS?

A: ONCE AGAIN, I AM GOING TO GO BACK TO THE LIST I GAVE
YOU AS EXAMPLES AND SAY THAT IT IS NOT INCLUSIVE. I
CAN'T FROM AN INFORMED POINT OF VIEW ANSWER YOUR
QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU TAKE THAT ONE?

A: I CAN TAKE IT, AND I WILL TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER.
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Message Attributes

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To: AF POSTS
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